

WCF Green Tier Charter 2018 Accomplishments

The WCF Green Tier Charter was signed on February 25, 2016 at a Governor's Council on Forestry meeting in Tomahawk, WI. Key points of the charter with accomplishments are:

Further Beyond Compliance Commitments:

- WCF will act as a leadership organization for consulting foresters by exceeding regulatory requirements and evaluating WCF bylaws annually to consider incorporating beyond compliance actions. WCF will also seek to build capacity in the private sector to support sustainable forest management practices on private forestlands.

By-laws were reviewed at our April and September business meetings.

- WCF will design and implement a mentoring program to assist in furthering the profession and practice of sustainable forest management (the target audience will be forestry graduates or college students enrolled in a forestry program). This will entail developing and conducting periodic trainings for cooperating foresters who are members of WCF. In addition to forestry specific topics, WCF and DNR will partner with economic development professionals to ensure sound business practices are also discussed.

WCF met with UWSP about working together on development of more practical hands-on training for students and recent graduates. UWSP has revamped their program to have more hands-on training for current students. UWSP received a grant to also do training for foresters currently in the workforce in 2019. WCF members will likely be involved in this training.

- WCF will take a leadership role with organizing and coordinating an annual Cooperating Forester Statewide meeting.

A very successful meeting was held in April, 2018 with over 230 people in attendance, the agenda for this meeting is attached. WCF continued to take the lead on organizing and implementing this meeting

- WCF will take a leadership role with facilitating the collection, compilation, analysis and exchange of information and DNR requests for input on pertinent forestry issues affecting Cooperating Foresters.

Ken Price is the WCF representative on the Governor's Council on Forestry representing the consulting forester sector. The following list is committees and the WCF representatives that sit on them:

Green Tier Committee – Don Peterson, Andy Tuttle, Jeff Groeschl, Kim Quast

Wisconsin Private Forestry Advisory Comm– Brock VanOss

Silviculture Guidance Team – Chris Thies

Forest Practices Committees – Joel Wagenaar

Anossum Committee – Joel Wagenaar

- WCF has a consumer complaint system and process to address concerns regarding WCF members' business and forestry practices.

There were no complaints received in 2018.

- WCF membership requirements shall meet or exceed those of participants in the Department's Cooperating Forester program by:
 - o Attending 15 hours of continuing education / training each year
 - o Participating in periodic MFL Forest Certification audits on lands with actual involvement of a WCF member.

All members have met the 15 hour training criteria. There has been no involvement to date on Certification audits.

Expected Benefits:

- WCF will be recognized as a leader in the practice and professional advancement of sustainable forest management and performance standards in DNR printed publications and other appropriate media. By being a member of Green Tier, WCF cooperative services may be promoted to those who are seeking and who would benefit from receiving professional forestry assistance.

WCF is acknowledged as Green Tier in the 2018 Cooperating Forester Directory.

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will seek WCF to fill critical roles on committees, advisory teams, panels and initiatives, offering key perspectives on policy and programs managed by the Department.

Accomplished as noted above.

- DNR Division of Forestry will partner with WCF to identify, develop and deliver specialized environmental training for WCF members in areas that will provide mutual benefits to WCF and the DNR.

Nothing to date.

- WCF and DNR Division of Forestry agree to collaborate and seek to address mutually agreed-upon current and emerging issues affecting forest management in Wisconsin including, but not limited to, impacts to the wood products industry or work that supports the Department's goals. At least twice each year, WCF Executive Committee and appropriate members of Forestry's Leadership Team will meet to identify common issues, leverage resources and achieve mutual goals in a collaborative fashion (note: this is in addition to the Chief State Forester and the DNR Deputy Secretary meeting with the WCF membership annually)

The WCF Executive Committee met with the DNR Division of Forestry Leadership Team in February and because Fred Souba, Heather Berklund, and Jim Warren attended the WCF Field Tour and had an hour long discussion at lunch as well as throughout the day it was decided to

forgo another meeting in 2018 with the Forestry Leadership Team. However another meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2019 in Rhinelander.

- Ongoing efforts to identify and agree on other deliverables that will be mutually beneficial to both organizations with the Green Tier charter being reviewed for revisions and updates at the biannual meeting.

Issues such as NHI access, MFL cutting notices, and contracting issues have been identified.